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The Highlander

Thursday **May 21 2026** | Issue 740

INSIDE: AFTER HOURS ADVICE FOR PET OWNERS, PAGE 11 **FREE**

Relay rakes it in

Students Erin Davidson-Collins, Cammie Daniels, Julia Jennings, Ewen O'Brien, Olivia Fitzell and Sophia Burke pose for a photo at the start of Relay for Life on May 15, with the event raising more than $25,000. See more on page 12. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Pharmacies expanding scope of care

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

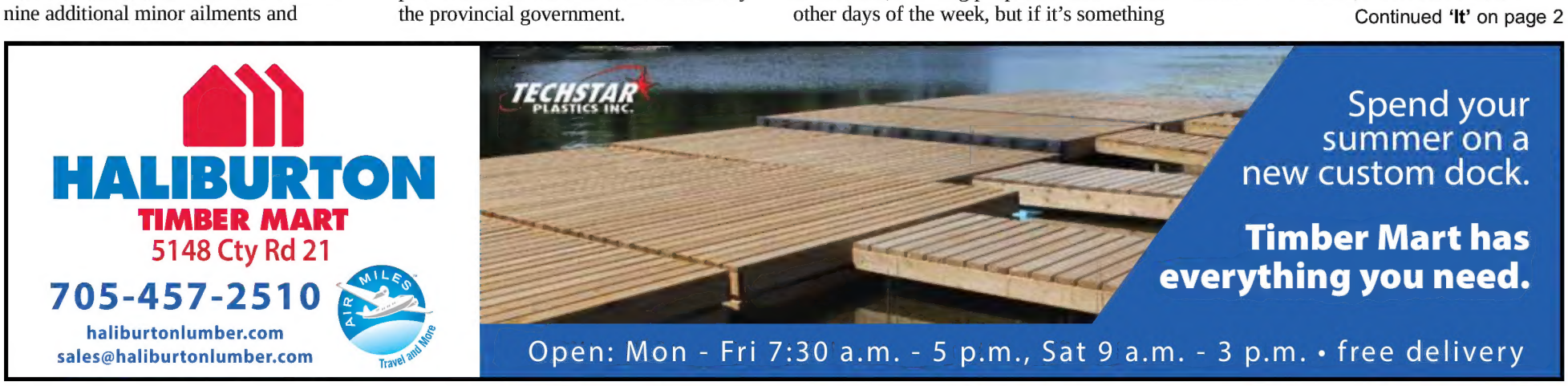
Highlands' residents and visitors will soon have more options to bypass the emergency room for minor ailments, allowing for them to be assessed and treated.

Pharmacies will soon be able to assess nine additional minor ailments and administer six newly-funded vaccines. Pharmasave - Haliburton Village Pharmacy is set to launch dedicated clinic days starting in June. The initiative will allow for a relief pharmacist every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., freeing the primary pharmacist to conduct private, 20-minute patient consultations which are funded by the provincial government.

"My relief pharmacist is going to be here every Wednesday so that I can be available for one-on-one consultations with patients," Lauren Wilson, pharmacist and owner of the Haliburton Pharmasave, said in a recent interview. "So any of the minor ailments, some of them are a little bit more urgent than others, meaning people can come in on other days of the week, but if it's something that can wait till a Wednesday, then I can really devote one-on-one time to the patient in a private clinic area and provide an assessment and medication reviews."

The provincial rollout, beginning July 1, allows pharmacists to assess nine additional minor ailments, bringing the total to 28 common conditions, and administer six

Continued **'It'** on page 2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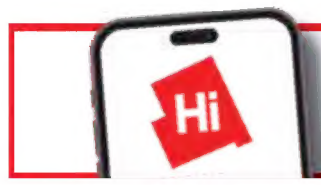


No algorithms

Ambulance bases need $645,000 of work

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton and Tory Hill paramedic stations are in need of major repairs, service director Michael Slatter told County council May 13.

The paramedic chief said council received a report Oct. 31 last year on the conditions of the two bases. He said there are issues that need to be addressed in the immediate and short term.

With the Haliburton base, at 6 South St. by the fire hall, Slatter said long-term plans should include construction of a new facility - elsewhere due to storm-water drainage issues. He said some of the problems are the size of the building, the washrooms, and water supply.

In the interim, he said the main entrance would have to be modified to widen the door with correct hardware; the washrooms adjusted; and the need for proper ventilation.

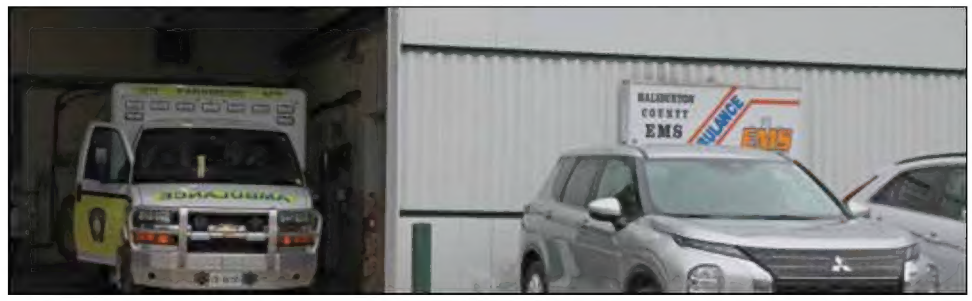
"Based on our visual review of the property, we are of the opinion that total cumulative expenditures will be in the range of $497,000 in the immediate (2026) and short-term (2027 to 2031) for the building and site to maintain the property in a state-of-good repair," Slatter said in a written report to last Wednesday's meeting.

As for Tory Hill, Slatter said that for the long-term, they should also look at a new facility. He said it's too small, only has one washroom, they can't drink the water due to radon, it's not accessible, and showers are sub-par.

He said, "based on our visual review of the property, we are of the opinion that total cumulative expenditures will be in the range of $148,000 in the immediate (2026) and short-term (2027 to 2031) for the building and site to maintain the property in a state-of-good repair."

Annual report

In his annual report, also tabled at the meeting, Slatter told councillors the call volume had decreased four per cent in 2025, from 2024. He largely attributed this to the CT scanner at Haliburton hospital, requiring fewer out-of-town transfers. Without CT, he said the call volume would have increased 26 per cent.



The Haliburton paramedic station (pictured) and Tory Hill station are in need of major work. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

For the majority of response times, he said the service met its targets for getting to patients in a timely manner.

Slatter added there had been many service changes, with a new chief (himself) and two deputy chiefs starting in 2025; along with front-line commanders in December of last year.

It was noted overall call volumes had increased by 20 per cent from 2020-25.

Last year, paramedics made approximately 4,100 patient contacts, ranging from weakness and, or dizziness, breathing problems, cardiac problems, to traumatic events. Slatter said the team was involved in two cardiac arrest saves, provided more than 20,000 interventions, including medication administration, stroke and STEMI assessments, assisting respirations, and delivering a baby.

"These events can take place anywhere from inside a residence, a public space, or in one of the many remote areas of Haliburton County." He noted that in some cases, they walked several kilometres, rode snowmobiles, ATVs and boats. He also touted the importance of the community paramedicine program. May 17-23 is paramedic services week in Haliburton County.

'It definitely doesn't fix the gap but will relieve pressure'

Continued from page 1

newly funded vaccines. The expansion includes assessments for dry eye, warts, and ringworm. It also includes funding for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, shingles, pneumococcal, and RSV immunizations.

However, Wilson explained that the anticipated rollout for in-pharmacy rapid strep throat testing and assessment has been delayed for at least a few months, likely into the fall or early 2027.

"Strep throat is going to be further down the road because it is stepping into a realm that pharmacists haven't really gone before," she said, adding that it will require a physical assessment, such as palpating lymph nodes, to properly distinguish bacterial infections from viral sore throats.

The expansion comes as the County begins to see the arrival of seasonal residents and visitors, and pharmacies are urging people to use them as a primary point of contact for minor ailments.

"I try to tell people to leave the emergency rooms for true emergencies," Wilson said.

While the provincial government has framed the scope expansion as a way to ease pressure on the health-care system, Wilson said it is not a complete remedy for Ontario's medical shortages.

"It definitely doesn't fix the gap," the pharmacist said. "But it will relieve at least a bit of the pressure from the local physicians and the urgent care centre in Minden. If everybody works to their full capacity, it can only benefit the community."

The province also directed regulatory colleges for other health professionals, including optometrists, physiotherapists, and chiropractors, to begin developing frameworks for future scope expansions.

Kearah Cloer-Milanov, front-store associate, Aimee Mansfield, pharmacist, Crystal Robinson, pharmacy assistant, and Lauren Wilson, pharmacist and owner are pictured at the Haliburton Pharmasave in the Hops Drive plaza. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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No AI slop

Boardwalk tour explores 'exploding' nature

By Mike Baker

Three years on from the launch of its award-winning 'Stepping into Nature' self-guided walking tour of the Minden riverwalk, the Haliburton County Master Gardeners (HCMG) is preparing to unveil a similar feature for the Minden boardwalk.

Featuring 10 stops unpacking vital information about the marsh and swamp located in Minden's downtown, the boardwalk tour will launch May 22. Master gardener Carolyn Langdon said people can stop by the boardwalk in-person to check out installed panels or take the tour virtually, through the STQRY Guide app.

"There's a bit of a lasting legacy to this. If we were to hold a workshop about the marsh, we might have 10 people attend. But this interpretive tour is a permanent form of education. It's accessible and the signs are written in a way that everyone can understand, even young people," Langdon said.

It was a collaborative effort. While the HCMG did all the heavy lifting researching the area and planning the panels, the project has been funded by a $4,500 grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation. CanoeFM assisted with audio recordings, Minden Hills township installed the signposts, and the County is covering the annual subscription for the app, which people can use to learn more about each stop.

Langdon said, originally, HCMG wanted to release the boardwalk tour alongside the riverwalk offering in 2023.

"That was the plan, but the boardwalk was shut down around that time for needed repairs. So, this has always been in the back of our mind… the marsh plays such an important role in our community. We feel it has a story that needs to be told," Langdon said.

While some of the boardwalk remained underwater earlier this week, leftover from April's flooding, Langdon said the water should have subsided in time for Friday's launch.

The panels, designed by Parker Pad and Printing, cover various topics. There's information about the wetland's makeup. Langdon said it's considered an accession wetland, meaning it's made up of different components, in this case a marsh and boggy swamp.

Haliburton County Master Gardener Carolyn Langdon installing one of 10 informative panels for a new self-guided tour of the Minden boardwalk. *Photo submitted.*

"We go into the differences between them and what kind of plant material each supports," she said. "It provides facts about wetland types and food web interactions between the plants and animals that call this habitat home."

There's a profile on two populous plants – the red elderberry and virgin's bower; a breakdown of the different bird populations that frequent the marsh, from the red-tailed hawk and indigo bunting to the alder flycatcher and song sparrow; an Indigenous component, reflecting on the role and importance of water to Indigenous people; and a panel celebrating biodiversity in the wetland.

Langdon said there's also a feature called 'dead tree standing' looking at the important role felled limbs play.

"We make reference to the fact that, even after a tree has died, it keeps giving life. Sometimes, a dead tree is so full of life that it supports more life than when it was alive," Langdon said. "It's really important to leave logs lying down in the forest, allow them to rot. They provide incredible stores of food, because they attract insects that break down the wood and they can attract birds and small mammals looking to form a new habitat."

Another panel focuses on 'here today, gone tomorrow' and highlights the ever-changing landscape of the site.

"We went in there early last summer and did an inventory of all the plants we found. Then we went back at the end of summer and a beaver had disrupted things dredging muck to dam a culvert," Langdon said. "The marsh was going dry because of the drought we had last year. The beavers were so active they inadvertently uprooted a whole community of plants. They completely disappeared.

"So, we talk about them because they will come back over time," she added.

Aside from sustaining native life, the marsh plays a pivotal role in sponging water in the spring, when much of Minden is on flood watch. Langdon said without it, there would likely be a major flood event every year.

"The marsh absorbs a tremendous quantity of water. During weather events, the water spreads out and so this marsh slows down the water and filters it. It takes away pollutants and excess nutrients from the water, meaning downstream, in places like Gull Lake, the water flowing is a lot cleaner."

Langdon credited fellow master gardener Ruth Treloar for compiling much of the information, which she said took hundreds of hours. She also thanked local bird enthusiast Cheryl Fraser for her contributions.

Friday's launch will feature a unique ribbon cutting, using Virginia creeper, with speeches from Anishinaabe elder Mary Jane Macleod and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter. Langdon said all attendees will receive a native plant that they can take home. It begins at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca.

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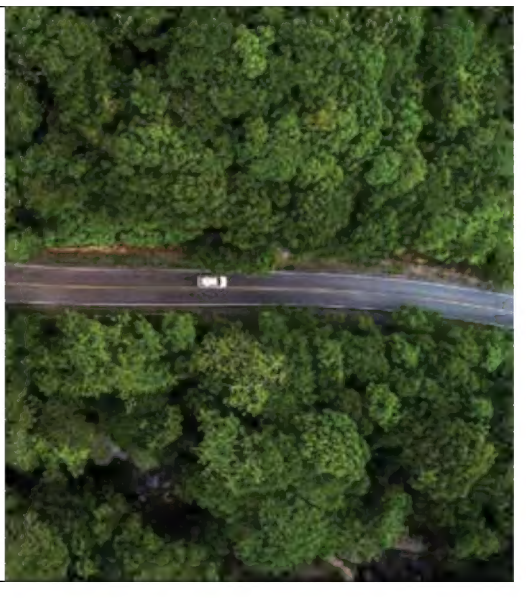

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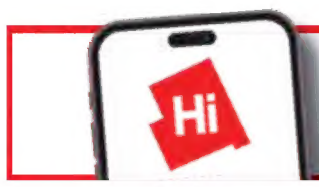

No trolls

Staff hopeful over Head Lake Park bridge

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al public works director, Rob Camelon, said he's hopeful the installation of a new footbridge in Head Lake Park will be completed this summer.

The township has spent weeks scrambling for alternative options after council, in March, opted against spending around $600,000 on a like-for-like replacement for the existing arched structure. Instead, elected officials directed staff to investigate a modular design, using a Bailey bridge, to save money.

Initially, Camelon felt the lower-cost option wasn't feasible, with DM Wills Associates, the engineer contracted to oversee the replacement, finding multiple problems. Chief among those was that a modular bridge would result in a lower soffit elevation, meaning less vertical clearance, over the Drag River, which feeds into Head Lake.

Given the changing elevation, Camelon said Transport Canada would need to sign off on the redesign. With the stream classified as an unscheduled waterway, and largely unnavigable, Camelon said the township could seek approval via a public resolution process, which takes 30 days, rather than go through a full permit application. That period began in early May.

The Head Lake Park footbridge will be replaced with a Bailey bridge. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Camelon said the township has the chance to resolve any concerns brought forward during consultation, though noted Transport Canada would get involved if there are any "sticking points" raised.

He said another $10,900 is needed to re-design the project, which was awarded to DM Wills April 28. Once those drawings are complete, and Transport Canada approval received, the bridge can go out to tender. Previous estimates have pegged the modular build at $100,000 to $250,000.

"Hopefully we can award all this work at our June meeting… fingers crossed, the bridge could get done this summer," Camelon said.

Coun. Pat Casey didn't want to spend the additional $11,000 on engineering, instead wanting to put the project, centred around the installation of a Bailey bridge, put out for tender. He feels there are companies who would take the build on without the extra spend.

Camelon said, given the project would need to be advertised for two weeks and still have engineering work done, that, going Casey's route, construction likely wouldn't be completed this year.

As part of the process, Camelon said DM Wills would be reaching out to vendors to get a firm idea on cost and timelines.

Coun. Barry Boice wondered why the firm didn't investigate modular options first time around. Camelon said it's because the township provided clear instructions on what they were looking for, which, at the time, was a like-for-like replacement.

"I feel like the engineers let us down. They should have come up with this solution the first time. They should be looking at ways to save us money, and I think they dropped the ball on that," Boice said.

After council approved the spend on re-design, mayor Murray Fearrey felt it was a sound investment.

"I think we're on the right track here. We've got to move on this and get something done quickly so that we don't cut off the two sides of the park," Fearrey said.

No tech bros

Highlander news

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Affordable housing

County council approved an annual rent supplement contribution of up to $74,000 for the first full year of occupancy (2027) of 19 units at the Gull River affordable housing project in Minden.

It represents an increase of $2,000 from the previous commitment in 2021 of $72,000 for 10 units.

"By increasing the County's initially-approved rent subsidy from $72,000 to $74,000, 19 units can now be offered as deeply affordable with rent geared-to-income; an increase of nine units for an additional investment of $2,000," City of Kawartha Lakes human services manager, housing, Michelle Corley, told council May 13.

The public would have noticed the build, at 12837 Hwy. 35 in Minden. Corley said they expect occupancy by January 2027.

The KLH Housing Corp. Gull River affordable housing project will consist of 35 one and two-bedroom units. Three will include enhanced accessibility features—such as wheel-under sinks, lowered switches, and other design elements—to better support residents who use wheelchairs. The remaining 32 will also be accessible, with ground-level entry and no stairs. It is an approximate $11.3 million project.

West Guilford bridge

The County has picked KB Civil Constructors Inc. as its contractor for the West Guilford bridge rehabilitation project.

Director of public works, Sylvin Cloutier, said the request for tender closed April 30 with nine bids. He said KB Civil Constructors Inc. were the lowest, under budget, and met all requirements.

The County had budgeted $800,000 for the job. The bid price is $638,775.77 including non-recoverable tax.

The bridge is on County Road 9 (Kennisis Lake Road), approximately 300 metres north of Hwy. 118.

Cloutier said, "rehabilitation will significantly extend the expected service life by 40 years. This postpones the need for complete replacement, which is typically more costly and disruptive."

AI policy

County council has accepted the Eastern Ontario IT Collaborative (EOITC) responsible AI framework as a guiding document for the responsible use of artificial intelligence within the organization. It will be used for a County AI governance policy.

Director of information technology, Mike March, said it was developed through the EOITC– along with other municipalities - and outlines how it will be used to support the County's AI governance program, including policy development, staff guidance, and risk-based evaluation of AI use.

He added the County is also working with its lower-tier municipalities to support their own AI governance programs.

March said, "AI technologies, including generative AI tools, are increasingly being adopted across public and private sector organizations. These tools have the potential to improve productivity, streamline administrative work, support data analysis, and assist staff in managing increasing service demands.

"At the same time, AI introduces risks related to privacy, confidentiality, accuracy, transparency, bias, cybersecurity, records management, and public trust. For municipalities, these risks are especially important given the nature of public sector decision-making and the sensitivity of information managed by local governments."

County IT director Mike March has developed an AI policy. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Buy Ontario

Councillors signed off on a recommendation by deputy treasurer, Tanya Rosenberg, to support buying Ontario and Canadian products.

She called for amendments to the County's procurement policy to ensure compliance with the Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement) 2025 and Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive.

The Buy Ontario Act establishes a framework to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services in procurement across the public sector. The Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive supports the Act by requiring the municipal sector to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services in procurements. Rosenberg said it would apply to vehicles and capital infrastructure.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

Candidate pool growing as municipal election looms

By Mike Baker

It's been three weeks since nominations opened for fall's municipal election and the race for local office is heating up in some parts of Haliburton County.

There were 19 confirmed candidates as of noon May 20, with nine people registering in Minden Hills, six in Dysart et al, three in Highlands East and one in Algonquin Highlands.

The biggest news came out of Dysart after Greg Bishop and Pat Casey this week announced their candidacy for mayor. Incumbent Murray Fearrey has already stated he will not seek re-election, calling time on his 50-year political career. Bishop is a retired Ontario land surveyor and engineer, while Casey runs two local businesses and is the current Ward 1 councillor.

Walt McKechnie has filed his papers, seeking another term as deputy mayor. He was acclaimed to the position in the 2022 election.

There are three men confirmed as candidates for different wards in Dysart – Carm Sawyer wants a second term in Ward 4, filing on May 11; Danny Roberts, a retired banker, is running again in Ward 1 after an unsuccessful bid four years ago; while Haliburton Legion president Mike Waller is seeking election in Ward 2.

While sitting councillors Barry Boice and Tammy Donaldson have confirmed they will be seeking another term, they have yet to officially file their papers. There's no word yet from Nancy Wood-Roberts, the representative for Ward 2.

In Algonquin Highlands, incumbent Lisa Barry is the only confirmed nominee. She's seeking re-election in Ward 2 after filing her paperwork May 15. Other sitting members, including mayor Liz Danielsen, deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux and councillors Julia Shortreed and Sabrina Richards have yet to file.

It's been quiet in Highlands East too. Angela Lewis, the current Ward 2 representative, Cecil Ryall, deputy mayor and Ward 3 representative, and Ruth Strong, the Ward 4 councillor have filed, but there have been no new candidates thus far, and nothing from longtime mayor and County warden, Dave Burton, nor coun. Cam McKenzie.

Most of the action has been in Minden Hills thus far. There's a three-way battle for mayor, with Pam Sayne, Tammy McKelvey and Pat Kitcheman all confirmed. Lisa Schell has also filed, seeking another term as deputy mayor.

Ron Nesbitt and Bob Sisson are going for councillor at large, with incumbents Shirley Johannessen and Ivan Ingram filing for Ward 1 and Stephen Hertel for Ward 2.

Council hopefuls have until Aug. 21 to be approved as candidates, with an official list to be posted Aug. 24. The election will take place Oct. 26.

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No misinformation

Highlander news

Coun. Angela Lewis wants shuffleboard equipment installed at Herlihey Park. *File.*

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Park enhancement shuffled to next year

A proposed $56,000 shuffleboard court to be installed at Herlihey Park has been shelved until next year after learning of the exact cost of the project.

Coun. Ruth Strong pitched the idea but it was put on hold during last week's council meeting after staff revealed the cost.

"I didn't realize that it would cost that much to be honest about it," Strong admitted. "I think it would be a good idea, but maybe not for this year."

Herlihey Park is in phase two of development, which includes a pavilion planned for 2026 and an accessible play structure. Staff said that adding the court now would disrupt the park's layout and current budget.

Coun. Angela Lewis asked if the shuffle board could be placed in the preliminary budget at the end of 2026 for the next council to consider. CAO and treasure Brittany McCaw clarified that the decision will rest entirely with the municipality's incoming leadership.

Residents not fans of STR bylaw

The results of a public survey show a slim majority of residents in Highlands East disapprove of the Short-Term Rental licensing bylaw.

The results of the survey were presented during a regular council meeting last week and showed that while residents support the concept of regulation, the current framework imposes administrative and financial obstacles. Neighbours of STRs made up the largest group of non-licence respondents at 31 per cent while operators comprised 27 per cent.

The STR public mapping dashboard was a sticking point for respondents, with 58 per cent opposed to the online document due to privacy and security fears.

"A lot of people... don't want their information on the web," coun. Angela Lewis noted, pushing for an opt-in choice. Staff admitted the map was somewhat "invasive" compared to neighbouring municipalities, but promised a review.

Another sticking point was the $5 million liability insurance and the renewal process through software provider Granicus. Councillors urged flexibility, suggesting the township look for another provider if the system cannot be streamlined.

Stacey Brown, Highlands East's STR licensing clerk and enforcement officer, acknowledged some "inefficiencies" with Granicus software, and said she feels the "pain of the host" around the issue.

With summer approaching, deputy mayor Cecil Ryall pressed on the urgency of the situation

"Their peak season is starting now," he told council. "We can't just put it off."

Council passed a resolution directing staff to present concrete bylaw revisions and dashboard recommendations at next month's meeting.

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Editorial opinion

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To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Stepping into nature

By Mike Baker

It's fitting that the official launch of the new self-guided tour of the Minden boardwalk should come on International Day for Biological Diversity.

The project, spearheaded by the Haliburton County Master Gardeners (HCMG), will be unveiled May 22 at 2 p.m. It captures everything that makes the Minden marsh beautiful and unique. Located in the heart of the downtown, it's a largely undisturbed mecca of native species, jam-packed with the flora and fauna of the Highlands.

It's years in the making. Master gardener Carolyn Langdon said HCMG originally wanted to make the boardwalk an extended feature of its award-winning 'Stepping into Nature' Minden riverwalk tour, released in 2023. Though, with the site closed for repairs volunteers couldn't access it. So, it was pushed off.

Work picked up again in January 2025. Ruth Treloar did a lot of the heavy lifting, spending hundreds of hours between the site and researching online. Other HCMG members pitched in too, as did local bird enthusiast Cheryl Fraser. The boardwalk tour is a prime example of what can be achieved when people work together.

Other entities played a role too. The Haliburton County Development Corporation pitched in $4,500 to fund the tour. CanoeFM assisted with audio recordings, Minden Hills township installed the signposts, Parker Pad and Printing designed the panels, and the County is covering the cost of the annual subscription for the online app, which people can use to learn more about each stop (via QR codes on signs). Folks can even use it to take the tour virtually.

There are 10 stops on the approximate 400-metre loop. One of the panels breaks down what type of wetland the marsh is – an accession one, according to Langdon, meaning it's made up of different components, ie. a marsh and swamp.

There are features on populous plants, such as the red elderberry and virgin's bower, a breakdown of the different bird types that can be found there. Those include the red-tailed hawk, indigo bunting, alder flycatcher, song sparrow and much more. One of the panels talks about the important role dead trees play in the eco-system, which was news to me.

Given the boardwalk is a Y-shape, there are three entry points. At the Invergordon entrance, there will be a panel titled 'biodiversity in the wetland', which Langdon said unpacks just how important the marsh is to Minden village. Aside from the ecological benefits, there's a pretty big practical perk too.

The wetland acts as a sponge come spring, with thousands, if not millions, of gallons of water being sucked up and stored – keeping it away from the Drag River. That's very important given how often the waterway has burst its banks over the past decade. Imagine how bad things would have been during last month's flooding if the wetland hadn't been protected and the land developed.

HCMG partnered with U-Links to ensure the tour featured an Indigenous component. Research students from Trent University did some digging, with information on the historical significance of the site to the area's first settlers included on some of the panels.

That feels significant, especially with Trillium Lakelands District School Board committing to building an outdoor education centre nearby, with Indigenous teachings expected to be a key part of the facility's programming.

Being so close to Archie Stouffer Elementary School, I can see the boardwalk becoming a popular field trip destination for teachers looking to immerse their students in nature.

Credit goes to the master gardeners for investing so much time over the past few years documenting everything that makes that pocket of the County so beautiful.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Get involved in your community

By Susan Tromanhauser

Creating daffodils around the family table is a fond memory for Jaclynne Cooney. The yellow flowers were for the Canadian Cancer Society's annual fundraiser, one of her mother's many volunteer activities. Her mother died when Cooney was 15, but she took her mother's life lesson "be involved in the community" to heart.

When she first moved to Minden more than a decade ago, she yet again took advice, this time from her new employer. "You need to meet people, go to the legion." She went to the Minden Legion and within a short time, began volunteering. She immediately met people who became good friends. It was also where she met her husband. In honour of her husband's late wife, Cooney volunteers at the Helen Ford Memorial Minnow Races, an event at the Minden Lions Club's Canada Day festivities.

Cooney believes "it takes a village to raise a child." She is thankful for all the people in Minden who support her in raising her teenage children. She sometimes gets messages from people confirming she is aware where her children are and who they are with. She is also thankful for the support systems in the community. "The school board has been amazing," providing individual supports to meet her son and daughter's specific needs. When Point in Time was recommended for additional help, Cooney was not only appreciative of their services, but also amazed at how quickly she was able to get access. Cooney's workplace also makes accommodations to assist in parenting, "working around school hours and appointments." Cooney admits it is difficult finding a full-time position, but manages with juggling part-time jobs to support her family.

Cooney passes on her mother's advice to her children to volunteer in the community and that giving back is important. Her son volunteered with the OPP and the mother/son team also recently assisted with filling sandbags during Minden flooding. Her children have lined up summer jobs, her son at the River Cone and her daughter at That's the Burger. Cooney recognizes her children are fortunate that "local businesses support local people."

When comparing smalltown Minden to urban life, Cooney admits she misses the convenience of some services as "places close down a lot earlier," but traffic is one thing she doesn't miss.

Cooney looks ahead a few years, when her children complete their secondary education. "I hope they find happiness whether they stay in the community or not, unfortunately, right now there's not a lot of opportunities for what they want to do." Cooney expects they will leave but hopes it is to go to school and they will come back to "start something in Minden."

The important thing for Cooney is her children know it's not just about the careers they might take on. Like her mother taught her, it's about involvement in the community.

Jaclynne Cooney. *Submitted.*

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

The Samurai in Our Closet

Dear editor,

The May 13 Speaker Series event at the Haliburton Legion was once again a resounding success. 'The Samurai in Our Closet,' featuring Mandy Shintani and Susan Yatabe, addressed a chapter of Canadian history that remains a profound shadow on our national past.

In 1942, the internment of approximately 24,000 Japanese Canadians—most of whom were Canadian citizens by birth—marked a dark era for both British Columbia and Canada. At the time, Japanese, Chinese, and Indigenous Canadians were legally disenfranchised and treated as second-class citizens. The methodical roundup of these successful individuals was, in effect, the legalized expropriation of their properties and the total suspension of their civil liberties.

While the material was heart-wrenching, it was delivered with remarkable factual clarity. It would have been easy for such a presentation to devolve into a political rant or a mere list of grievances; instead, the speakers highlighted how the Japanese community met their circumstances with shikata ga nai—the stoic, philosophical acceptance of things beyond one's control.

Despite the gravity of the subject matter, the evening concluded on a truly inspiring note. The Q&A session transformed into a vibrant exchange of personal stories and shared concerns, leaving the audience with a powerful sense of community, resilience, and hope for a more inclusive future.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake, ON

Lost landmark

Dear Editor,

Head Lake Park is an important feature in Haliburton. Being able to walk, jog, cycle, listen to music in front of a beautiful amphitheatre, buy at a farmers market, play with your kids, play with your dogs, look at gardens, admire a fountain, take a picture on the bridge.

At Dysart et al's April council meeting, I learned that the iconic bridge in Head Lake Park will soon be gone and most likely be replaced by a steel industrial-looking Bailey bridge. Bailey bridges are usually used for temporary or quick replacements. The council had planned to widen the bridge to make room for a service vehicle, but this costs much more money. The beauty and charm of the bridge will be gone. Council has lost its focus to preserve the beauty and charm of the park.

Think out of the box. Explore Minden's solutions for their low-arched and handicapped accessible bridges. Get quotes from bridge engineers who can offer alternatives. The need to provide for service vehicles is minimal.

Michèle Swyer
Haliburton

Think before you spray

Dear editor,

I was pleased to see that two articles – 'Protecting lake drinking water key to plan' and 'Buzz kill: brace for bad bug biting season' in the May 14 *Highlander* highlighted the unnecessary widespread use of insecticide on properties.

Although annoying to deal with, as the articles noted, both black flies and mosquitoes serve an important purpose in our ecosystem, such as pollination and being part of the larger food chain for many other animals (e.g., fish, frogs, birds, bats, etc.).

Many residents hire companies to spray their entire property without regard for the many other parts of the ecosystem that are negatively affected, the impact on human health (particularly children who are closer to the ground and breathe more rapidly) and the long-term effects on our land, water and air. They may not be aware that the use can actually lead to black fly and mosquito surges because the chemicals also kill their natural predators, like dragonflies, that typically keep those populations in check.

There are many other options to deal with these "pests" such as staying indoors during peak times, using fans to keep away these poor flyers, using bug-resistant clothing or bug spray (even many natural ones are available) and having features on your property to encourage their predators to help lower the population (e.g., bat/bird houses, naturalizing the shoreline to encourage turtles, frogs and dragonflies to live there).

So, before you spray, please think about what else is being affected. It might be your drinking water coming from the lake, your pets, your children or grandchildren.

Kim Johnstone
Algonquin Highlands

Stellar support

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, we would like to thank all who came out to support us at our end of season sale. We had two very successful sale days thanks to everyone who came in, got some terrific deals and also added from our spring line to their wardrobes.

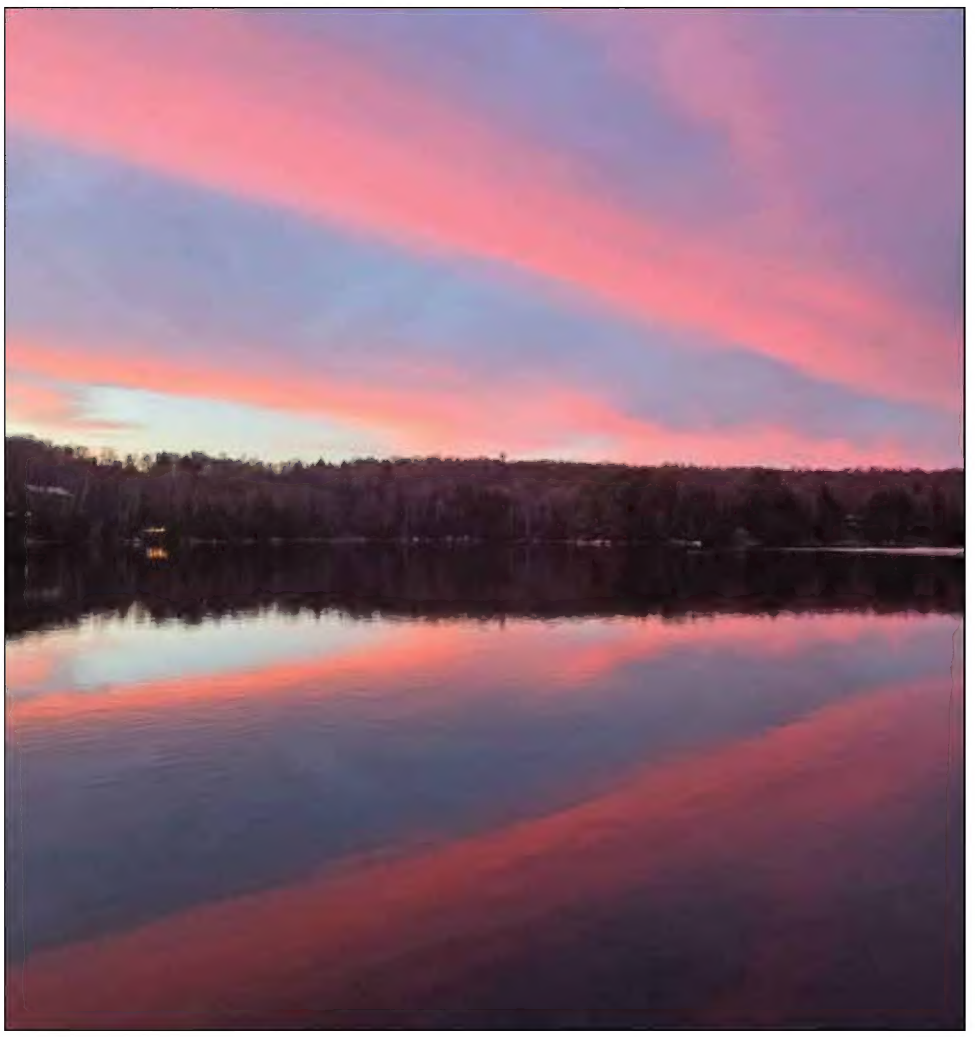
We are very appreciative of all your support and remind you we are open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays noon to 3 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Keep an eye out for us around town at various locations – we have our annual Tag Day July 10. All our proceeds go to help fund local health care.

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Cecille Gibbons
Minden

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Laurie Johnson caught this Highland sunset admiring its own reflection.

Talking census

Dear editor,

I agree wholeheartedly with Adam Frisk: participating in the census is important.

Important for the community, important for funding, important for emergency services. I do it gladly every five years, perhaps because I'm a bit of a statistics junkie - I will participate in almost any survey you want to throw at me - or perhaps because I see how underserviced communities can deteriorate quickly.

However, the government census questions go far and beyond these purposes. Many of the questions are highly invasive and add nothing to the purported goal. The trouble with filling out the questionnaire online is that it doesn't allow you to skip over questions that, frankly, are none of the government's business.

For example, I will happily share my year of birth for the purpose of analyzing demographics, but my exact birthday, surely, is completely irrelevant. The census form compiles an awful lot of information that can potentially be hacked, and, despite government assurances, we all know that it happens.

I solve this dilemma by phoning in my information. That way I can skip the invasive questions and contribute to the relevant ones. And you know what? My census taker this year fully agreed. She doesn't do her census form online either.

Barbara Arnold
Gooderham

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

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THIS WEEK:

Ottawa Update with MP Jamie Schmale

Highlander business

Just the Highlands

ADVERTORIAL

Something's missing but I don't know what

By Simon Payn

I grew up in the suburb of a small English city. If I turned right out of my road and kept going, I'd end up at the edge of town. And if I kept going further, I'd arrive at Spring Wood.

Five minutes from the suburbs and two from the highway, Spring Wood felt like a little oasis. It was an ancient wood, a remnant of when England was forested. So to me, it was a little patch of nature.

I remember the thick and twisted branches of the old oak trees and their acorns that littered the ground in fall. There were thickets of blackberries you could never enter, and open areas of trees with leaves that forbid light. Going there felt like putting on a shroud of silence.

One day, part of the wood was coppiced – an ancient practice to manage woodland for timber and firewood. There was a winding path through the coppiced area, and because more light was reaching the ground, plants grew up each side of the path, making every corner a new discovery. I can still smell the warm grass.

> One summer a grouse followed me around like a puppy. It made a sound like an engine starting.

Then I'd ride my bike home.

In and out of the city

I lived in London for a few years when I got my first job. My flat looked over the docklands area, with its blinking towers and planes coming into land.

A ten-minute walk away was Greenwich Park, home of the observatory, where time was counted.

The park was on a hill, high over the river and the city towers. The financial district was like a backdrop while I wandered on the grass, amid the trees, as the wind blew from the north.

On some weekends I'd go home to Suffolk and I'd visit the countryside with my parents. When the train crossed the estuary at Manningtree, I'd breathe out.

As a guy in his 20s, the roads and the offices were where life and career lived. And yet.

The drive up north

When I moved to Canada, I lived first in a condo in downtown Toronto. One bedroom, 18 floors up.

We had a cottage here and we'd visit on weekends.

It was a long drive up the Parkway on a Friday night, nose-to-tail up Highway 48. Leave it too late and it would take even longer. Wait until the traffic was quieter and I'd arrive a wreck.

When I finally got here, I'd walk to the water and notice the smell of pine needles. Sometimes I'd have to move a branch that had snapped off and fallen over the steps.

I'd see what the lake was doing – how high and how chilly the water was. I'd say hello to the familiar tree and poke a stick into the bubbles of sticky resin on its trunk.

One summer there was a grouse that followed me from deck to lake like a puppy. When it wasn't with me, I could hear it because it made a sound like a two-stroke engine starting.

Remembering

I'm not the only one to do this. The three hours of agony and burgers on a Friday, the relaxation when you touch the forest, then the three hours of ice cream and tail lights on a Sunday night.

Eighteen years ago, I moved here full time and spent weekends in the city. My drive was against the traffic, not with it. The journey recalled a decades-long pattern. I was swapping a comfortable blanket for a cold slab.

I still remember Spring Wood but I don't dare go back, just in case it's not the same. In case the tree trunks are scored with graffiti. Or the wood is gone completely.

I prefer to remember the bluebells in April, and the feeling of biking up the pathway and turning left into the darkness of the trees.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological gardens and shorelines in Haliburton County. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

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Native plant landscapes. Looked after, season after season.
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grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Chop Shop MMA owners Janet and Chris Wellstood are excited to bring their new gym to Haliburton. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Bringing hi-yah to Haliburton

By Mike Baker

After rubbing shoulders with some of the biggest names in mixed martial arts (MMA) during their years coaching in Kingston, Haliburton residents Chris and Janet Wellstood are excited to bring their unique brand of combat training to the Highlands.

The couple is preparing for the launch of their new gym, The Chop Shop MMA, on May 30. Located at 175 Industrial Park Rd. in Haliburton, the 800 sq. ft. space will feature Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and fitness kickboxing programming for people of all ages and abilities.

The opening comes a year after the Wellstoods relocated to the area – a homecoming for Janet, who grew up in the Highlands but lived away for more than 30 years. She's returning to help care for her 86-year-old dad.

"He still lives on a 200-acre farm and needed help – so we sold everything we owned in Kingston and came north," Janet said.

A part of that was letting go of their stake in Kingston's high-profile Hayabusa Academy, which they ran for more than a decade from its opening in 2013. At its peak, the space had 370 members and was a breeding ground for top-level MMA competitors.

"We had fighters from all over the world coming through there. Georges St. Pierre was there a few times," Chris said.

A black belt in BJJ and karate, while also trained in muay thai, Chris said MMA has been a major part of his life for more than 30 years. He discovered the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in the mid-1990s, before the company – and the sport – went mainstream.

Never much interested in turning pro himself, Chris dedicated years towards learning and honing his craft. A couple of years in, after progressing with his belts, he figured out he enjoyed teaching more than anything else. Since becoming a coach in the mid-2000s, Chris has trained six people to black belt level.

Janet was one of his students – she had an athletic background, playing hockey and running track, but nothing combat-based. She started training in BJJ in 2010 and, by 2018, was a silver medallist in her class at the World Master Jiu-Jitsu championships.

Grappling based, rather than striking, Chris said BJJ is a great way for people to improve their discipline and gain greater control of their emotions. Janet said it's a wonderful form of self-defence.

"I think that attracts a lot of women, wanting to try something that could help get themselves out of a bad situation if they needed to," Janet said. "The kickboxing stuff is just for fun. It'll be good cardio where we get the music pumping and help people get rid of negative energy from the day."

Group classes will run up to an hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with private bookings available on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"We're going to meet people wherever they're at in their journey, just trying to recognize what their goals are and try to help them as much as we can," Janet said. "We want this to be fun. No stress, just a welcoming atmosphere where people can work to better themselves."

Chris said it doesn't matter how young or old you are, anyone can benefit from training in BJJ or kickboxing.

"We had a guy start with us in Kingston when he was 60 and he's still doing it now, he just got his purple belt," Chris said. "MMA completely changed my life. I'm a lot calmer person now. I'm 54 and in pretty good shape. The training has been so beneficial."

It can also be a good outlet for people suffering with anger issues or things like post-traumatic stress disorder. Chris said he's worked with the military and various police agencies over the years.

"A big part of it is just teaching people how to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations, which is mostly a mentality thing," Chris said.

The gym will be open May 23 for free drop-in introductory classes. On May 30, alongside their grand opening, the Wellstoods will be running a 'punch for paws' fundraiser in benefit of Snowflake Meadows Dog Rescue.

For more information, visit www.thechopshop.ca.

It's nicer here

Highlander business

Dr. Jenn Morrow with a four-legged patient at the clinic. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Animal clinic offers after-hours advice

By Lisa Gervais

It's a weekday evening or weekend when your dog decides to eat a chocolate bar you have inadvertently left on the counter. You are a bit panicked, wondering if you should rush your canine to the Kawartha Veterinary Emergency Clinic in Peterborough.

Not so fast, according to Minden Animal Hospital, which has added an after-hours emergency service through its local, 705-286-2919, number.

Owner and veterinarian, Dr. Jenn Morrow, said they are using a third-party company, called VetWise, to answer their phone after hours.

She said when you call, a veterinary professional can answer your questions, and help triage the situation.

"Is this something that can wait until tomorrow when we're open? They can book that appointment for you. Is it something potentially urgent? They can connect you with a telemedicine veterinarian. Is it an emergency? They'll help you get to the emergency clinic and let them know that you are coming."

Morrow said pet owners can experience a lot of anxiety deciding whether or not to take an animal to an out-of-town emergency clinic. "Do I need to go? Is this truly an emergency? How much is it going to cost? How long am I going to be waiting?"

She said VetWise will help to alleviate that anxiety.

The clinic owner said 70 per cent of situations don't actually require a trip to an emergency clinic. For example, an ongoing ear infection. She said the animal can be triaged virtually from home. Perhaps an owner will be advised to monitor their pet overnight. Perhaps they will be given a script for an antibiotic they can fill at the local pharmacy to tie the pet over until Monday.

She said the service "is helping people understand which is which…because if it's a true emergency, at least when you are going there, you understand."

She added there is no fee for the initial call, although you will pay for a telemedicine appointment with a vet. "There's no fee to ask questions. There's no fee to book an appointment the next day."

Morrow added emergency clinics are for true emergencies, and don't need to be overrun with non-urgent visits. Things like bladder infections can be treated at home - not doing so can cause long waits at emergency clinics, Morrow said.

The Minden-based vet has also added a new team member, Dr. Alicja Larisch, and as a result, been able to extend hours from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., rather than closing at 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Morrow said she recognized that in difficult financial times, not everyone can take time off work to bring their pet to the vet. The new hours allow people to come from 5-7 p.m.

She added it is helpful for when people have a sick pet and come home from work to find their pet's condition has changed. They can bring them in.

They now have three full-time and one part-time vet.

Morrow said for some it's still a "sore point" Haliburton County vets are not open on weekends; however, she believes in a work-life balance for herself and her employees. However, she thinks the after-hours service and extended hours is a good offering.

"It might not be a fair comparison, but you also have to travel outside of the County to give birth. I learned that myself. There are pros and cons to living up here. We love living up here, but we don't have all the same services as Orillia or Peterborough, whether it's human care or animal care."

The clinic has also added an app for clients and broadened financing options.

2026
HALIBURTON Home & COTTAGE SHOW
47th Annual

Friday, May 29th
3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday, May 30th
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 31st
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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SCAN ME

Show operated by
Haliburton Curling Club

Highlander events

Coming soon

Above and beyond

Hal High hosted its inaugural Relay for Life on May 15, in support of cancer research and treatment. Students and staff raised more than $25,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. The event featured themed laps around the track and other outdoor activities.

Above: Allie Paul gets warmed up ahead of the Relay for Life by playing some outdoor games. Top right: Students arrive for the start of the Relay for Life. Middle right: Students listen to the opening remarks. Bottom right: Students and members of the public participate in the survivors lap, officially kicking off the Relay for Life.
Photos by Adam Frisk.

Point in Time
Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Point in Time invites you to attend our
Annual Meeting
on Tuesday, June 16, 2026
at the Haliburton Legion

Socializing and light refreshments at 5:30pm
Meeting commences at 6:00pm

RSVP by calling 705-457-5345 x105

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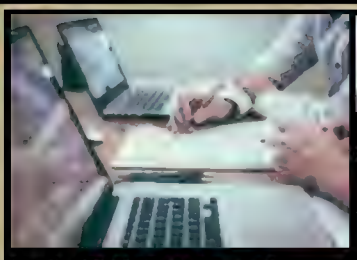

Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

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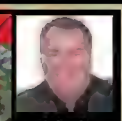
NEW LISTING

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

Kennisis Lake $1,099,000
- 3000+ SqFt, Level Lot, Lakeside Deck
- Cathedral Ceilings, Lrg Primary Suite
- Deck Walkouts, Heated 2-Car Garage

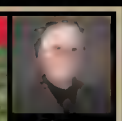
NEW LISTING



Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

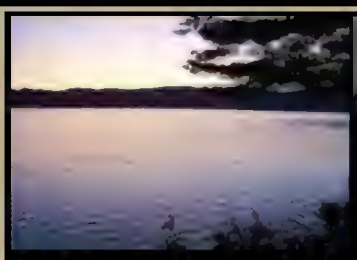
Kennisis Lake $2,399,900
- 4bd/3.5ba, 3800SF, 215ft Frtg, 2.6acres
- Lg Primary Suite w/Ensuite, Chef Kitchen
- 2-Bay Heated Garage, Carport, Sauna

NEW LISTING



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Mountain Lk Cottage $699,000
- Four bedrooms, fully furnished
- Gradual sand beach, then deep water
- Dbl garage, 2-room bunkie, SW Exposure



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** & Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Long Lake $1,650,000
- 3bd, 2ba, 2000sqft, 2020 custom build
- 43+ acres, Sunny south views, 420ft WF
- 2-car gar, Propane FA, A/C, central vac

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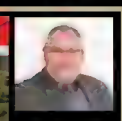
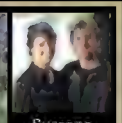


Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Canning Lake $899,000
- 3-Bed, 2-Bath Year-Round Home
- Western Lake Views & Sunset Deck
- Bunkie, Dock, Firepit, Landscaped



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

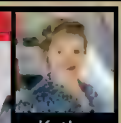
Miskwabi Lake - $999,900
- 190ft waterfront, Sandy shore, Lake views
- Custom kitchen, Wraparound Deck
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Screened porch, Garage

NEW LISTING

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

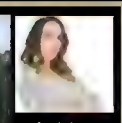
Long Lake Gem! $524,999
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
- 3 bd, 1 bth, large deck, fully furnished
- Pontoon. Perfect for active cottagers!

COMING SOON



Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

In-Town Minden Home $419,000
- Cozy 3 Bed, 2 Bath Downtown Home
- Walking distance to all town amenities
- Call for a sneak peek!



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Contau Lake Lot $379,000
- 1+ acre treed waterfront retreat
- Dock, deck, firepit, south views
- Driveway, hydro, year-round road

NEW LISTING

Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Salerno Lake Lot $625,000
- 4.69 Acres & 690 Ft Frontage
- West-Facing Sunset Views
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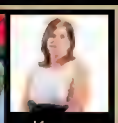

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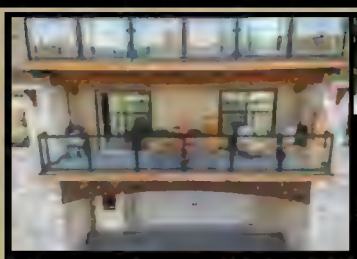

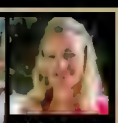

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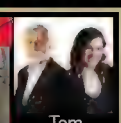

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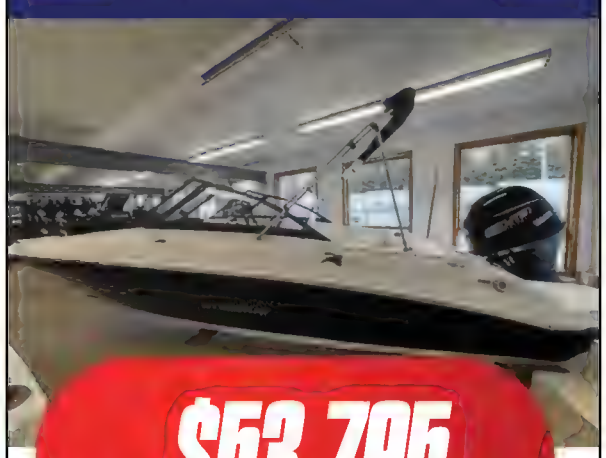

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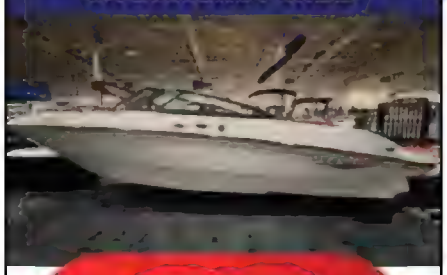
MONTEREY M22



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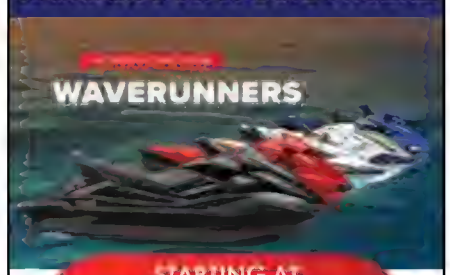

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Highlander events

The Haliburton farmers market returned to Head Lake Park May 12, marking the unofficial start to the summer season. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Farmers market ushers in summer

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Head Lake Park will once again be a bustling place on Tuesdays with the Haliburton County Farmers Market Association kicking off its 2026 season.

The market returned to the park under sunny skies and mild temperatures May 12, and for Marchand Lamarre, the association's chair, the opening was more of a community reunion.

"We are so happy to be in the park again," he said. "So many people from the community are coming out to welcome us back."

While the Haliburton Tuesday market enjoyed beautiful weather, the season opener in Minden a few days earlier (May 9) was more challenging due to gusty winds and cooler temperatures, though the market managed to wrap up just before the rain arrived.

This year, Lamarre said the market is mixing things up a bit with several new artisan creators and a variety of prepared food vendors, opening the door for more customers to swing by for lunch while they shop.

For many, the return of the market is the ultimate seasonal indicator.

"It's like the groundhog," Lamarre joked. "Once they see the tents start popping up, people know that winter's over."

Go jump in the lake

Residents across the County participated in the annual Jump in the Lake Challenge on May 16, in support of the Central Food Network & Heat Bank Haliburton County and Minden Community Food Centre charities. Residents raised funds by pledging to take a cold plunge in support of the charities.

Above: Julie and Rhonda Walsh make a splash for a good cause on Saturday. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

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Musicians at a jam session at the Cardiff Legion May 9. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Music brings us together

By Mike Baker

Veteran axman Roger Davis nods along and lets his fingers do the talking, working their magic tickling the strings up and down the fretboard of his acoustic guitar.

He's one of a dozen musicians at the Cardiff Legion May 9, partaking in a renewed monthly jam session that has taken the community by storm. Relaunching in January, the local concerts have given rural musicians an opportunity to showcase their skills in front of a crowd. They've also helped bring more people to the legion, which volunteer Sylvia Maedar said has been a big help.

"Right now, the legion is just trying to keep ahead of its bills. Business has really dropped since the pandemic and we're trying to come up with ways to build this place up again, make it a bit of a hub for the community," Maedar said.

For years, the legion was just that in Cardiff, said current president Henry Dickinson. There would be musical acts booked on weekends, regular meat draws, 50/50s and themed parties through summer. One of the most popular recurring events was the monthly jam sessions, but they faded out around 10 years ago.

Davis was instrumental in getting the music flowing at the legion again.

"I run a monthly gathering at the Bancroft Legion and just thought this is something that could work in Cardiff too," Davis said. The first meet, in January, was held on a Thursday evening and wasn't well-attended, so the group shifted to weekends.

"Since then, it's been awesome. We're getting amazing participation from musicians and a decent crowd in to sing along," Davis added.

Whether it's Davis' bread and butter, such as Creedence Clearwater Revival or Johnny Cash, or other country, folk and rock and roll melodies, there's a good mix of sounds and genres displayed throughout the three-hour sessions.

Rather than taking turns performing on stage, the musicians form a circle in the clubroom. One person starts playing, another might sing, while others fill in the gaps with background instrumentals. Most play the guitar, but there has also been fiddle, saxophone, mandolin, and flute on display.

"Most of the people here have played together at some point, so we have an idea of what to expect from everyone," Davis said. "I enjoy it immensely. This gives us a place where we can play together and it helps the legion out, so it's a win-win for everyone."

He said the musicians take requests, joking, "one of my favourite statements is if you have a request, write it on a $5 bill and send it up to the front. If I don't know it, I'll make sure you get $4 back."

Dickinson said he hopes the sessions inspire an uplift in legion membership. During its heyday 15-20 years ago, the branch would have between 200 and 250 active members. Today, there are fewer than 50.

"We need help with volunteers too. It would be great if we could get enough to bring the fish fries back on Fridays, or run meat draws… it's been a long time since we've been able to do that," Dickinson said.

For Vince Bassaretti, a legion member for 50 years, he appreciates the effort people are putting in to make the branch a happening place again.

"Before these started, I hadn't seen a live band for about 10 years. This is something that gets me out, but it also helps put the legion on the map a bit, let's people know that there are things happening here. That's a great thing," Basseretti said.

Maedar and Davis said the sessions will run on the second Saturday of the month through the rest of 2026. The next one is scheduled June 13. They're free to attend, with refreshments available to purchase. There's also a donation jar that gets split between the musicians.

"New people are always welcome – musicians, listeners and anyone who wants to help out," Maedar said.

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Red Hawks badminton pairs strike gold at COSSA

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Hal High Red Hawks made quite the racket on the badminton court late last month by capturing gold at the Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association (COSSA) finals.

Senior players Lara Gallant and Lilly Casey, alongside juniors Lincoln Brown and Annika Gervais, secured the golds during the April 22-23 competition.

For Gallant and Casey, the senior gold caps off a storied high school career and a four-year partnership marked by redemption after finishing third at COSSA last year. The pair overcame mid-match injuries in the finals to win their deciding set, earning a spot at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) tournament.

For coach Jason Morissette, it was the dedication to daily practice and a shift in maturity that fuelled the senior girls' championship run.

"They actually built some humility because they had some losses," the coach said, reflecting on the past four years coaching the girls. "They're much more level-headed about it all... They've gotten better as athletes, and people too."

Casey said it was their competitive drive that separated the pair from the rest of the teams at the finals.

"It's just something that we worked for four years... and finally we could achieve it," she said.

The juniors battled fatigue to capture gold after having all their matches go to three sets, including the final.

"It was definitely exciting, but I think it was also exhausting," Gervais said.

Brown credited coach Joseph Dowling with providing real-time strategic adjustments and mental support to push through the tournament.

The seniors competed hard at OFSA, held in Markham April 30 to May 2, but dropped all three games they played.

As for what's next with the Red Hawks? It's time for the senior girls to pass down the torch, coach Morissette said. But their success formed a blueprint for the athletes on the team, especially for the Grade 9 newcomers.

"If you work hard and you stay with the process... you can possibly achieve an [OFSAA] qualification because it's really hard to do," Morissette said. "They can give all their knowledge and sort of just be positive. It's kind of like you learn and pass it down."

Coach Joseph Dowling pictured with Lincoln Brown and Annika Gervais after winning gold at COSSA. *Submitted.*

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PUBLIC NOTICE: CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be reviewing the Township's Fees and Charges By-law during its Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2026, regarding housekeeping changes to:

• Schedule A – Septic Re-inspection Program

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Comments or questions may be provided to the Director of Finance by Wednesday, May 27th, at 4:30 p.m.

Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the live-stream link available at the top of the Agenda located on the Minden Hills CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/.

Zach Drinkwalter
Director of Finance
705-286-1260 ext 504
admin@mindenhills.ca

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Don't miss the final week of *Mute Eloquence of Light: Arctic Works* by Janet Read will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until May 23. The exhibit features abstract paintings on linen, oil and acrylic works on panel, and mixed drawing–painting pieces, inspired by the artist's experiences in the Canadian Arctic and along Greenland's west coast. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is now open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm! Stop by for a visit. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• May 28 – Regular Council Meeting
• June 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK (MAY 17-23)

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts May 25 at 7 p.m., $5 per player.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Exercise club May 26 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts May 27 at 2 p.m.; quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; cribbage at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. May 28 HHHS social recreation at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. May 29 is fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m.; May 22 is community care lunch at noon and wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. May 23 is honours and awards at 11 a.m.; May 30 is trivia at 7 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m.
Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

May 21, 7 p.m. Environment Haliburton! welcomes guest speaker David Robertson to its upcoming envirocafe, who will unpack recent extreme weather events and discuss why Ontario needs a climate plan. Register online at environmenthaliburton.org or call 705-457-9239.

May 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friendship Fri-YAYs are back at Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association. Swing by the farm at 1105 Spring Valley Road in Minden for welcoming time with horses, nature walks, arts and crafts and connection with friends, both old and new. Running every Friday through summer, weather permitting.

May 22, 2 p.m. The Haliburton County Master Gardeners is hosting a 'step into nature' tour of the Minden Boardwalk. Join the gardeners as they launch their new interpretive tour of the boardwalk. Meet behind the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

May 22, 5 p.m. Chili, rhythm and dance night at the Haliburton Legion. Featuring Benton Brown and The Lowdown. Chili served at 5:45 p.m., with dancing, karaoke and silent auction to follow. Proceeds shared between the legion's generator fund and Haliburton Gymnastics.

May 23, all day. Ontario Watercross Racing Association comes to Haliburton County, with races on the pond in front of Pinestone Resort. There will be a viewing platform and pondside patio with refreshments. Also runs May 24.

May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stanhope Municipal Airport is hosting its fly-in to spring event. Featuring a wide array of unique aircraft, classic cars, vendors, artisans, entertainment, food and a beer tent by Haliburton Highlands Brewing. Admission is free. For more information on plane and helicopter rides or camping, contact Kaylee Carroll at 705-457-0806. Rain date is May 24.

May 23, 2 to 3 p.m. The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026 induction ceremony at A.J. LaRue Arena. All are welcome. Come cheer on this third group of inductees, celebrating sporting excellence in the Highlands and beyond.

May 23, noon to 3 p.m. Corner Gallery in Haliburton is hosting an opening reception for its new show 'Brink'. All are welcome.

May 23, 7:30 p.m. The Highlands Chamber Orchestra is holding its annual spring concert 'Innocence and Elegy' at Pinestone Resort. Featuring music by Wagner, Holbrooke, Munktell, Lau, Berlin and Copland. Tickets are $25, available at Redmans Records or by calling 705-457-0456.

May 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café heads to Minden, taking place at 166 Bobcaygeon Rd. Representatives from Minden Hills township will share tips on landfill best practices, Bob Fawcett will lead a textile upcycle and recycle workshop, and Dave Paddock from Algonquin Outfitters is running a bike tune up session. Bring your small appliances and household items for a second life.

May 24, 9:30 a.m. The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is holding its annual general meeting at the Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall in Algonquin Highlands. Recap of a great winter and volunteer awards. Help plan for next season. All are welcome.

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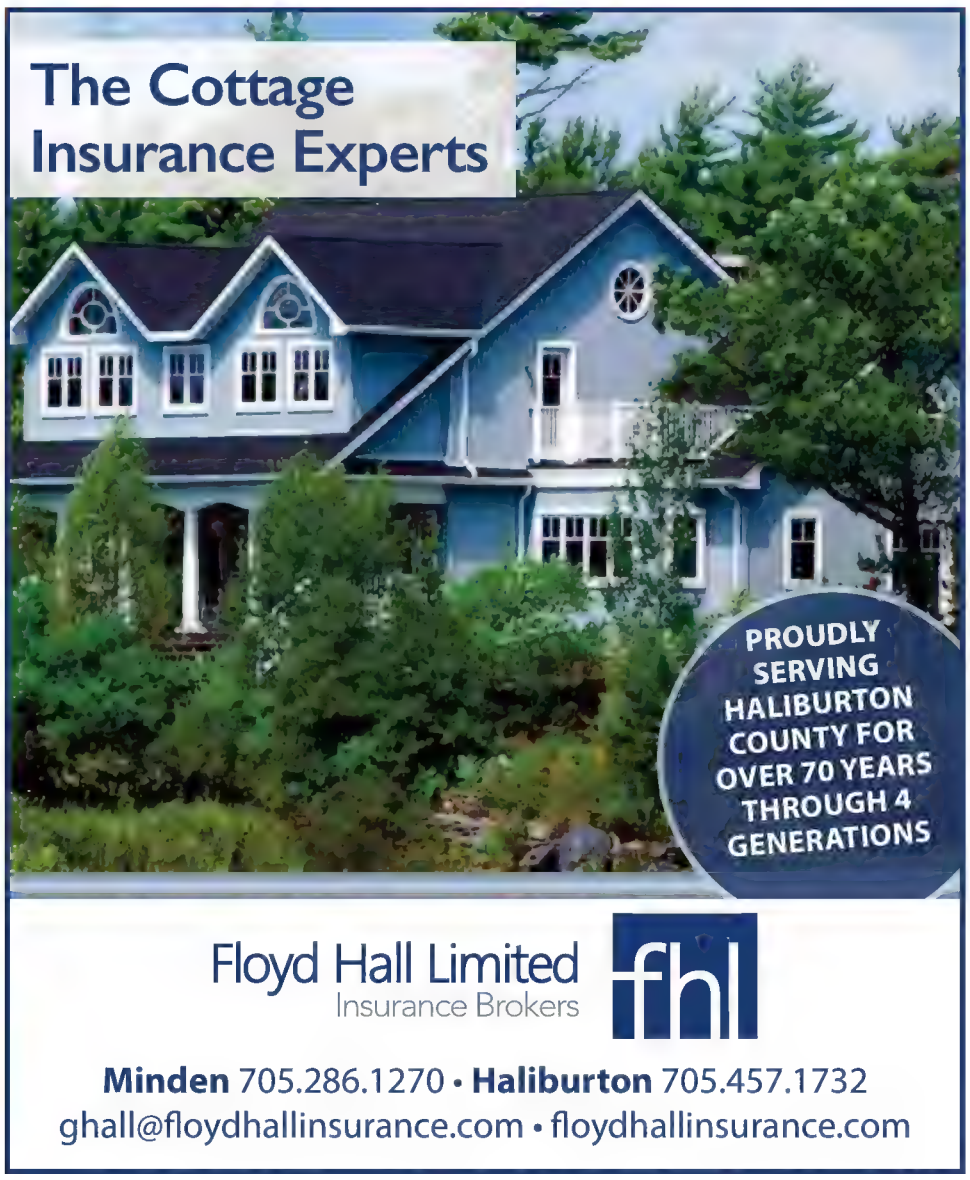
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What's on

Corner Gallery curator David Partridge is preparing for Brink. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Corner Gallery on brink of new show

By Lisa Gervais

In coming up with a theme for Corner Gallery's new exhibition opening May 23, curator David Partridge selected the word 'brink.'

He said it was chosen in part because of where the world is, and the state of people's minds.

Partridge said framing that theme for the artists exhibiting their work was interesting as it could be interpreted two very different ways.

"I think the word 'brink' for a lot of people feels like you're getting pushed over the edge, but other people truly saw it as the dawn of something new."

He's asked about private art galleries, which are struggling to make ends meet as the cost-of-living puts pressure on people's pocketbooks. With art being considered a luxury by some, galleries across Ontario, Canada and the world, are feeling the weight.

Partridge said Corner Gallery is not immune to that, saying "this year matters to its future." He said the title was also "a tongue-in-cheek jab at that'."

He said attendance at galleries is down. "It's so interesting to watch these things ebb and flow because post-COVID, everybody wanted to get out. And already that's wearing off, and money is getting harder to come by."

Naturally, Partridge wants Corner Gallery to exist.

"We are constantly trying to tap into the community and be a part of it, so 'brink' felt like the right word. Are we on the threshold of collapse, or the start of something new?"

Asked how the artists have responded to the theme, Partridge said they loved it. He said they have been coming with their work and telling him what they were thinking as they made it.

He said last year's 'view from up here' theme allowed landscape artists, for example, to run amok. This year, he said, "you're not going to be able to just paint a landscape and then say it's the brink."

He said one artist who typically does landscapes came in with portraits because, "when she thought about the word 'brink' and what it meant, she felt like people were on the brink. And it was interesting to see such different work from last time."

If people are on the cusp, Partridge said, "maybe a gallery's purpose is to have them slow down. Come in and have a look. A really good way to undo that feeling is to be with like-minded people who are kind and compassionate and caring, and expressive and want to share, and who better than artists to do that with?

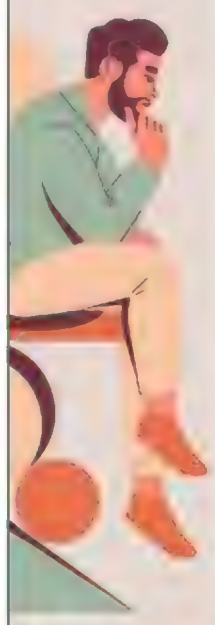
"Come in and look around. You don't have to buy anything. Seriously."

He said representing artists is more important to him than selling art. "So that when someone comes in and asks 'why did they do this?' I can tell them these are the five reasons I know that they did that.

"And, the best thing I can imagine, is someone wanting to come in and talk about how they are teetering on breakthrough or collapse."

'Brink' opens May 23, from noon to 3 p.m. Partridge said most of the artists will be in attendance. The show will run at least until end of summer.

KELSEY SHARPLESS
COUNSELLING
MSW, RSW, SOCIAL WORKER, PSYCHOTHERAPIST



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TRIBUTE

Paul Michael Cummings
Tribute

Paul Cummings was born on July 21, 1957 in Pickering, Ont.

He passed away on Jan. 15, 2026 in Victoria, Vancouver Island, B.C.

Paul is survived by his siblings : Carole, Elizabeth, Brenda, Patricia and Michael and pre deceased by siblings : Lorne, Kevin, Michelle and Donald and mother Mary Alice Bates and father Michael Joseph Cummings.

Paul started school at St Francis de Sales in Pickering , Ontario. He continued at the elementary schools in Haliburton, Ontario when his parents moved there in 1968. Paul attended Haliburton High School before attending Laurentian University on Sudbury, Ontario.

Paul travelled to Victoria in the mid 1990's. He lived in Victoria, Sooke and Duncan area.

He participated in various community groups and activities such as the Green Barter System, Near Death Experience (NDE) Society of Vancouver Island, Sooke Lions, peer helper at Sooke Family Resource Society, Brain Injury Society, artistic gyroscope dance, Every Step Counts, coached with Special Olympics ski team, Spirit Bears, electronic publishing, photography, men's groups, personal growth, Reiki, wholistic health, Huntingtons Disease (HD) Society and UBC HD research study.

Some of the sports Paul participated in are hockey, skating, golf, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, pool, sailing, badminton and tennis.

Paul did trades contracts and driving instructor work for employment.

He enjoyed going to music coffee houses, concerts, jazz festivals, plays, IMAX theatre, Victoria boat festival , Victoria inner harbor music and events or just enjoying an ice cream cone on the Beacon Hill Park lookout.

Travelling around Vancouver Island (Duncan , Sooke and Victoria areas) on his motor cycle or in his car was a pleasure Paul enjoyed while taking in the area and having a Timmy's coffee. Also, he enjoyed going for walks and always had to pet and engage with dogs/owners along the way.

He loved reading, and had over 600 books. In particular he enjoyed mystery, sci-fi and wholistic books.

He had a gift when he dialogued with people, he could succinctly summarize things in a one sentence response for others.. Paul's had a spiritual nature and had the intention to be guided by quality harmonious choices. And had an inner drive for fairness and justice.

Paul enjoyed going out to different restaurants and going to the Oak Bay pool. He made many friends on these outings. In his later years, Paul woke up every day glad to be alive and live in the moment. Paul regularly answered the phone 'Paul here'. Maybe, now when you think of Paul you will hear 'Paul here'.

Paul will be greatly missed by many people.

- Cummings family and Chris Kunz

WANTED

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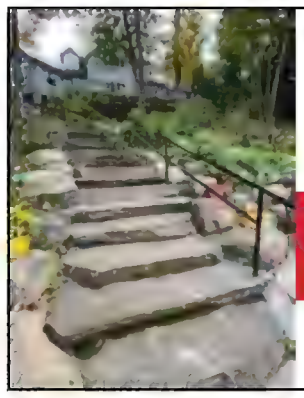

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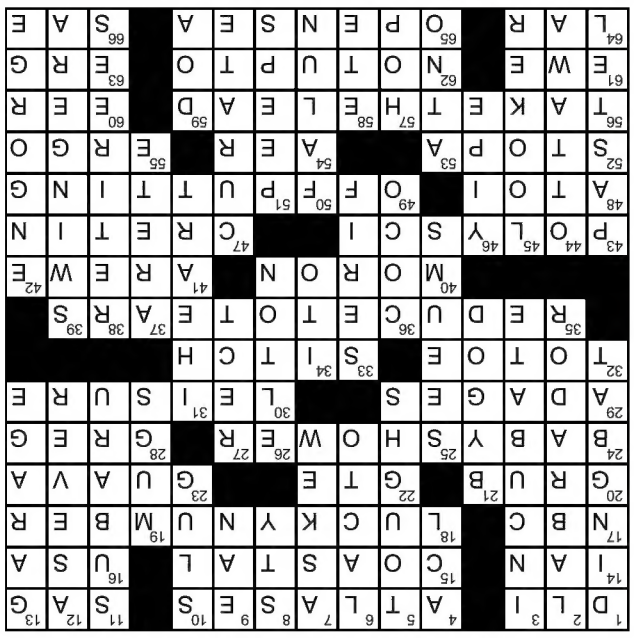

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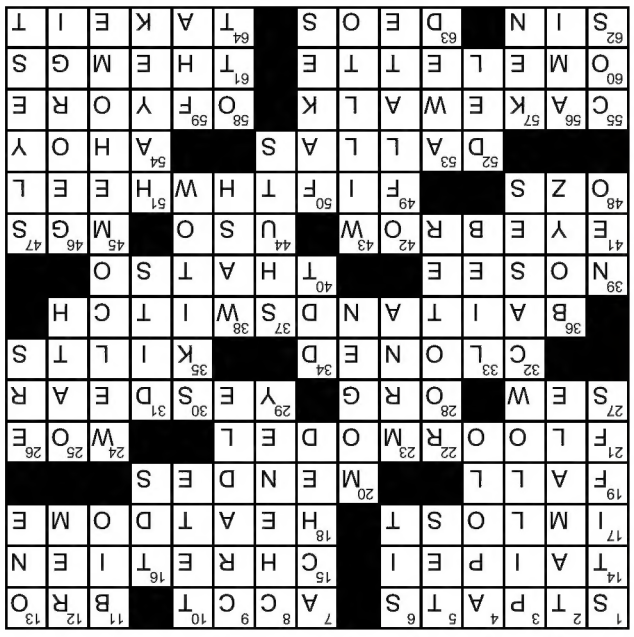
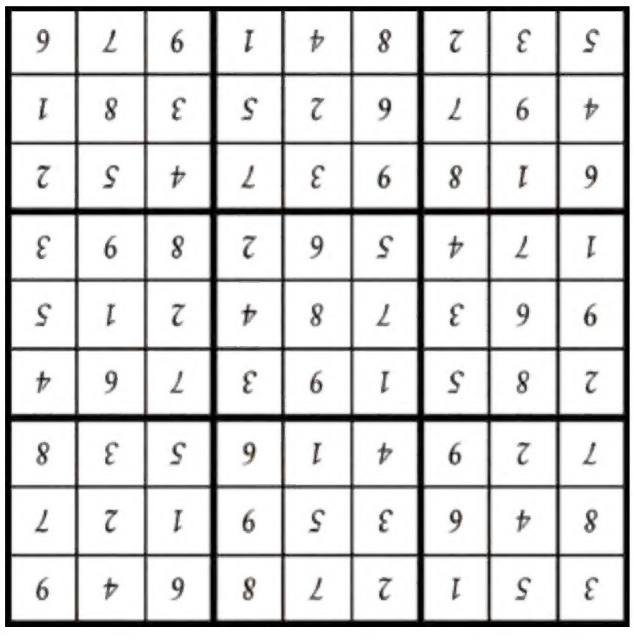




OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Norma Mary Isaacs

(née Poole)

Norma Isaacs (née Poole) passed away unexpectedly in Haliburton, Ontario, after spending a wonderful day with her husband Ray, on May 12, 2026. They had just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary six days before.

Norma was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1936. She met Ray in Cape Town and they married in 1961. They immigrated to Canada and arrived in Toronto in July 1967, with two young children and a third on the way. When her kids reached high school, she returned to school to get her BA from the University of Toronto, studying the Humanities, on which she placed great importance. After raising their family in Toronto, they moved to Haliburton in 2006.

Norma will be deeply missed by her beloved husband, Ray, children Barry (Janine), Tracy (Diane), and David (Ruby), treasured grandchildren Cameron (Megan), Liam (Michael), Devin, great grandson Jaylen, sister Rene in Switzerland, cousins Geoff (Linda) and Mike (late Ann-Marie) and the entire Poole family, the Isaacs and Van der Ross families in South Africa, and cousins Jill and Lesley in Australia.

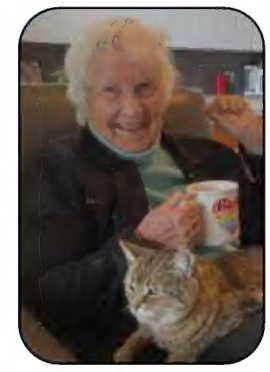
Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Norma's life will take place on Monday, May 25th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (Visitation 1 hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations in Norma's memory can be made to SIRCH Community Services or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, both of which Norma supported, and would be greatly appreciated.
To read more about Norma, see the Haliburton Community Funeral Home obituaries page: www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Barbara Brownsberger

(nee Downie)



"Just be happy". That's what Barb would tell you in her 91 years of wisdom. She'll be missed by her small but mighty family, daughter Joanne Brownsberger Bishop, SIL Steve Bishop (her absolute favorite), granddaughter Alisha, whose accomplishments as a woman and architect Barb is immensely proud of, grand SIL Gage Shelly, and "other" daughter Karen Scholz, plus fur babies, Lucy, Nyxy, & Agnes. Ok, she was super proud of all of us!

Barb had a wonderful life, growing up in Toronto, enjoyed several years as an usherette at Maple Leaf Gardens, where she thought Elvis was "meh", but met the love of her life, Norm Brownsberger (1930-2009). They were early cottagers on Eagle Lake (1971 -thank you, Bob Bishop, for closing that deal), and made best friends with Mary & Hubert Scholz, sharing a lot of rum rum rum! The highlight was retirement in Florida, on the golf course, dances, card parties, watching Blue Jays games, & some great cruise vacations built in. At the end, she loved the Hali condo life, cards with the ladies, and bingo night was always fun.

As an only child of Scottish parents, she would not want anyone wasting money on cards, flowers, or planting trees in her memory; instead, please enjoy a martini & a good bottle of wine at home with a toast! We hope she's forever dancing to Blue Spanish Eyes with Dad. Xo. Add that to your playlist!

Private Funeral Arrangements

A private celebration of Barbara's life will be held by her family at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Michael "Mike" David Perkins

November 13, 1960 - May 15, 2026

Passed away peacefully at his home on Kashagawigamog Lake in Minden, Ontario surrounded by his loving family. Mike was the loving husband of Colleen Perkins (nee Flynn). Proud father of Candice Perkins & Mike Perkins Jr. (Samantha). Adoring Papa of Cole Perkins. Predeceased by parents Harley & Shirley Perkins. Brother of Sandy Kennedy (Ron), Gary Perkins & Brian Perkins. Son in Law of Robert Flynn & the Late Margaret Flynn. Brother in law of Danny Flynn, the Late Bobby Flynn (survived by Shirley) & Tammy Bramhall (Bryan). Mike will be missed by many nieces, nephews, extended family & many dear friends.

The Perkins family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Haliburton County Paramed staff and nurses.

In keeping with Mike's wishes, Cremation has taken place and there will be a Celebration of Life held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Mike can be made to the Haliburton Health Services Foundation.

Online memorial tributes can be made through www.lakelandfuneralcentre.com

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FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

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Highlander puzzles

One for Five

by Barbara Olson
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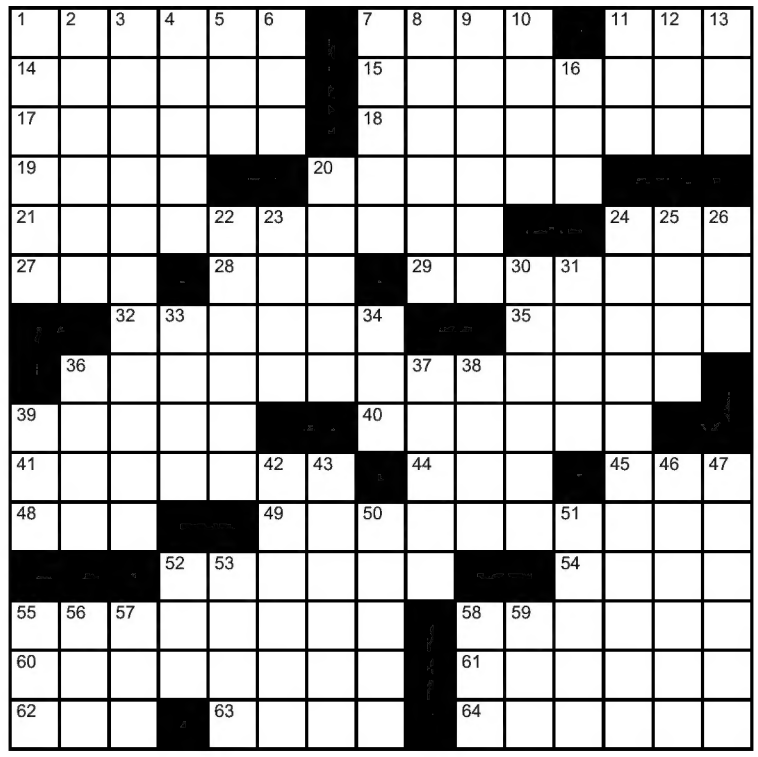

Across

1 March 17, for short
7 Bank stmt. no.
11 Certain sib
14 Taiwan's capital
15 P.M. dubbed "the little guy from Shawinigan"
17 "Can you give me directions?!"
18 *Extreme summer weather phenomenon
19 End of a trip?
20 Canadian pop star Shawn
21 *Demo car, e.g.
24 "Ah, alas!"
27 Use a Singer, say
28 Assn. or grp.
29 "You're the boss, darling"
32 Like Dolly the sheep
35 Bagpipers' garb
36 *Sneaky sales method
39 "Long time" followup
40 "No kidding, eh?"
41 Cosmetic pencil target
44 G.I. entertainers
45 Pill measurements: Abbr.
48 "Fluid" amts.
49 *Double date tagalong
52 NHL Stars' city
54 Chips ___! (cookie brand)
55 *Easy-peasy feat
58 From way back when
60 Scramble alternative
61 Booker T.'s backup band
62 T-4 slip ID
63 Portuguese "god"
64 Tolerate abuse, or what one might do with the start of the starred clues' answers

Down

1 Doesn't tip
2 "Hot" Mexican dish
3 Makeshift Halloween bags
4 Skating champ Ohno
5 "..., ton, ta, ___"
6 "Park it"
7 Yearned (for)
8 Dick or daughter Liz
9 Nursery furniture piece
10 Place to hang one's chapeau
11 "About me" bit
12 Dream phase, for short
13 Nobody special
16 CFL coups
20 ___ David (Jewish star emblem)
22 Truffle-finder, e.g.
23 COVID vaccine molecule
24 Spring break greeting
25 Solemn promise
26 First-floor hosp. sites
30 T-bar alternative
31 Bits of Morse code
33 Beloved, in Berlin
34 "Silent Spring" killer
36 "___ N the Hood" band
37 Closes
38 "Rinse, repeat" opener
39 "Matrix" hero
42 Recently
43 Leave for upon one's death
46 ___ Dimitrov, former Bulgarian leader
47 Most wily
50 Cheap Picasso's, likely
51 Salma of "Frida"
52 Singer Lana ___ Rey
53 Left wondering?
55 Romaine cousin
56 Chicoutimi chum
57 Ryan in "Barbie"
58 Slugger Mel
59 U.S. loan agency

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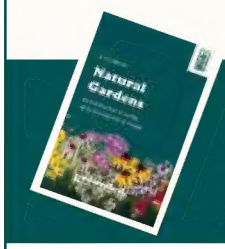

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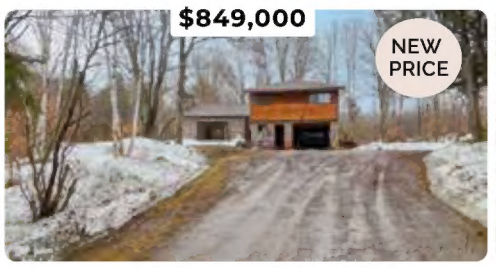

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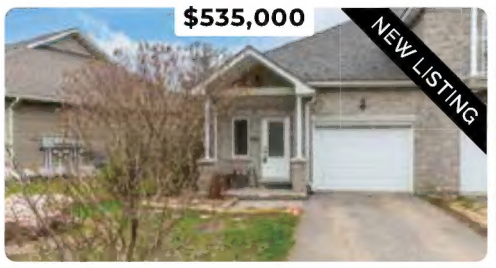
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

WEBB CIRCLE, SILVER BEACH



BED 1+1 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

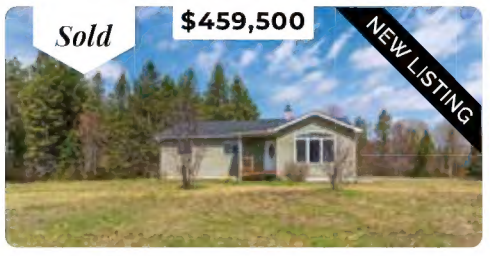
IRONDALE RIVER, IRONDALE RD

BED 5+1 | BATH 4.5 | MLS #X12110017

HIGHWAY 35, KUSHOG LAKE

BED 5+1 | BATH 4.5 | MLS #X12110017

OUTRAM RD, WILBERFORCE

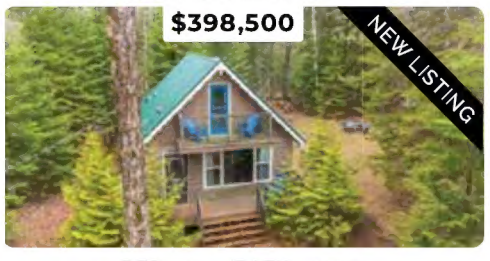


BED 5+1 | BATH 4.5 | MLS #X12110017

COUNTY RD 503, GOODERHAM

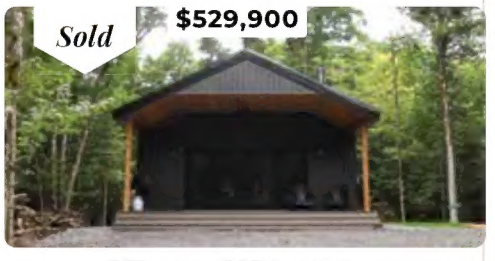
BED 5+1 | BATH 4.5 | MLS #X12110017

GLAMOR LAKE RD



BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

BASSHAUNT LAKE RD



BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13005862

EVERY SALE HAS A STORY

Our experience with Baumgartner Realty spans two chapters of our life, and they delivered beautifully both times.When circumstances required us to sell our cottage and relocate for family, Linda guided us through what could have been a stressful process with care and professionalism. She took the time to truly understand our situation and made the experience far smoother than we expected. Two years later, when we were ready to come back, we didn't hesitate to return to Baumgartner. Nicole took on the search for our new cottage and immediately impressed us with how thoughtfully she listened. Rather than flooding us with listings, she was selective and respectful of our time, and every property she brought to us was genuinely relevant to what we were looking for.

What stood out most during the purchase process was [their] approach to helping us evaluate each home. She asked the right questions, made sure she understood our priorities, and was careful to walk us through both the strengths and limitations of every property we considered. We never felt pressured, just well-informed and well-supported. We hope this is our forever home, but if we ever find ourselves buying again in the area, Baumgartner Realty will be our first call. This is a group that truly puts clients first.

-S. Walintschek, Google Review

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

New Listing
TOM BOLTON RD
$225,000
6.48 Acres | MLS #X13111900

Coming Soon
LOCHLIN RD
$224,500
47 Acres | COMING SOON TO REALTOR.CA

Haliburton
BOUGHNER RD
$199,900
5.31 Acres | MLS #X12110017

New Listing
BRADY LAKE RD
$199,900
0.48 Acres | MLS #X13129990

New Listing
STILLS RD
$145,000
1.21 Acres | MLS #X13118448

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY
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Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.

Linda Baumgartner
Broker of Record
(705) 457-3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca

baumgartnerrealty.ca

SCAN TO VIEW LISTINGS